Categorising Channel Risk & Defining Maintenance Approaches

For Internal Drainage Boards

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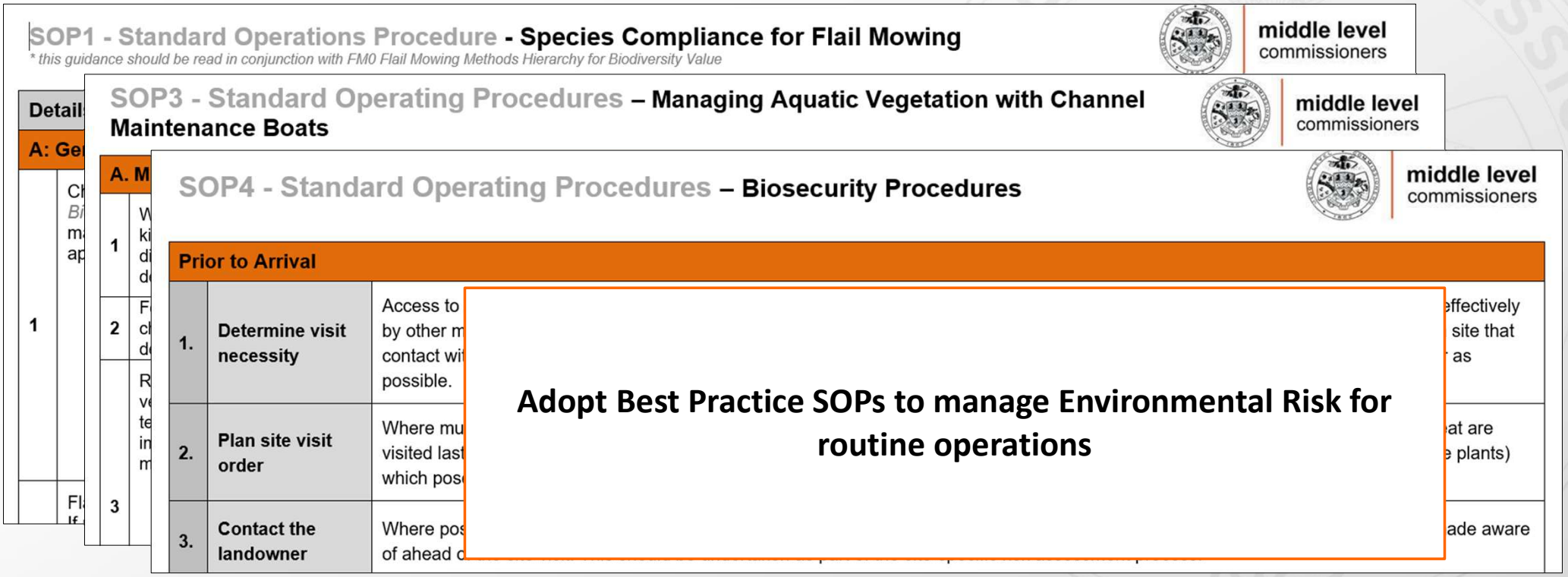
Managing Risks from Routine Works:



SOP1 - Standard Operations Procedure - Species Compliance for Flail Mowing

* this guidance should be read in conjunction with FM0 Flail Mowing Methods Hierarchy for Biodiversity Value

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SOP3 - Standard Operating Procedures – Managing Aquatic Vegetation with Channel Maintenance Boats

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SOP4 - Standard Operating Procedures – Biosecurity Procedures

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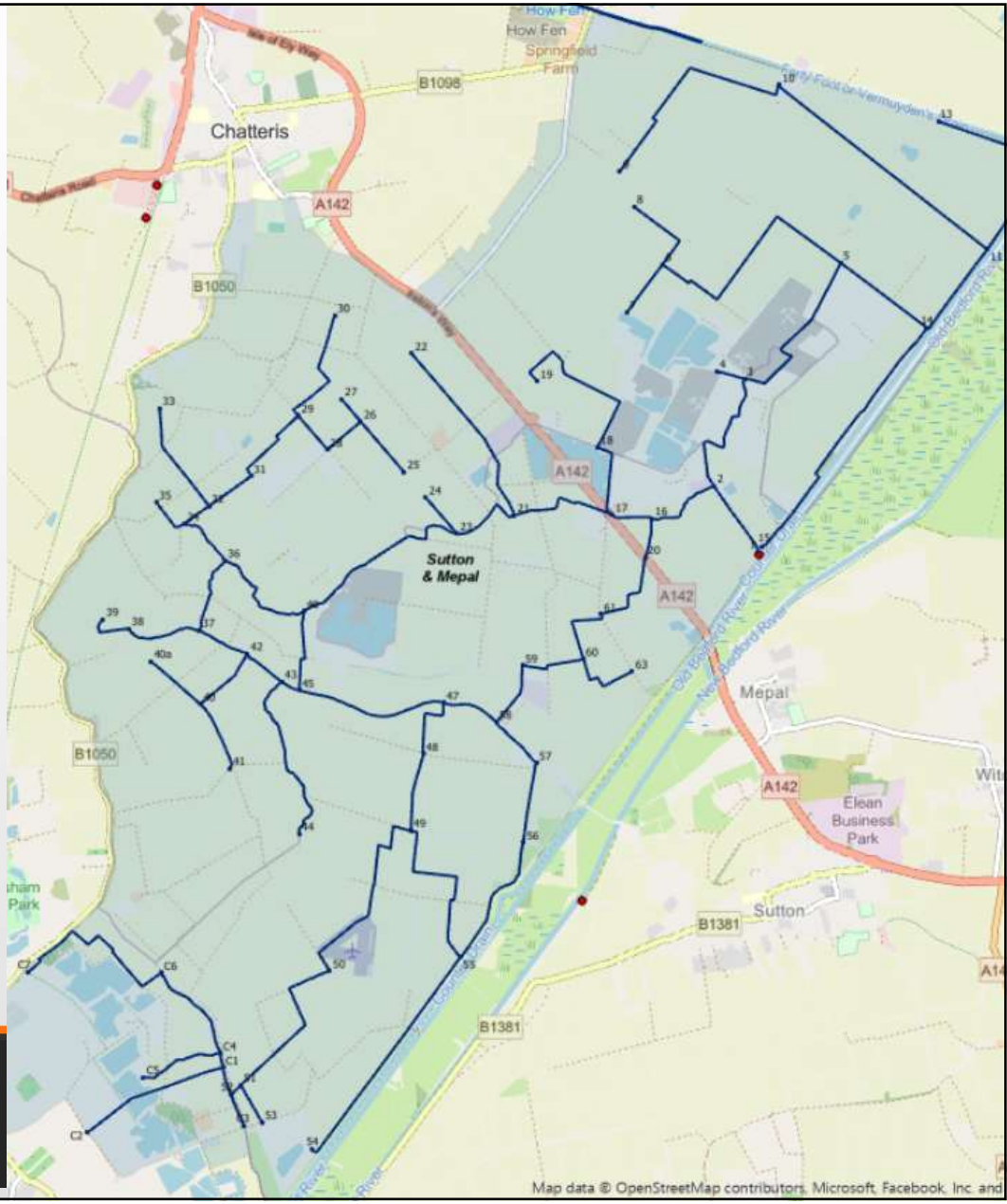
Prior to Arrival		
1.	Determine visit necessity	Access to … by other m… contact wi… possible.
2.	Plan site visit order	Where mu… visited last… which pos…
3.	Contact the landowner	Where pos… of ahead c…

Adopt Best Practice SOPs to manage Environmental Risk for routine operations

Define Channel Risk Category to Determine Maintenance Approaches

Start with the district map



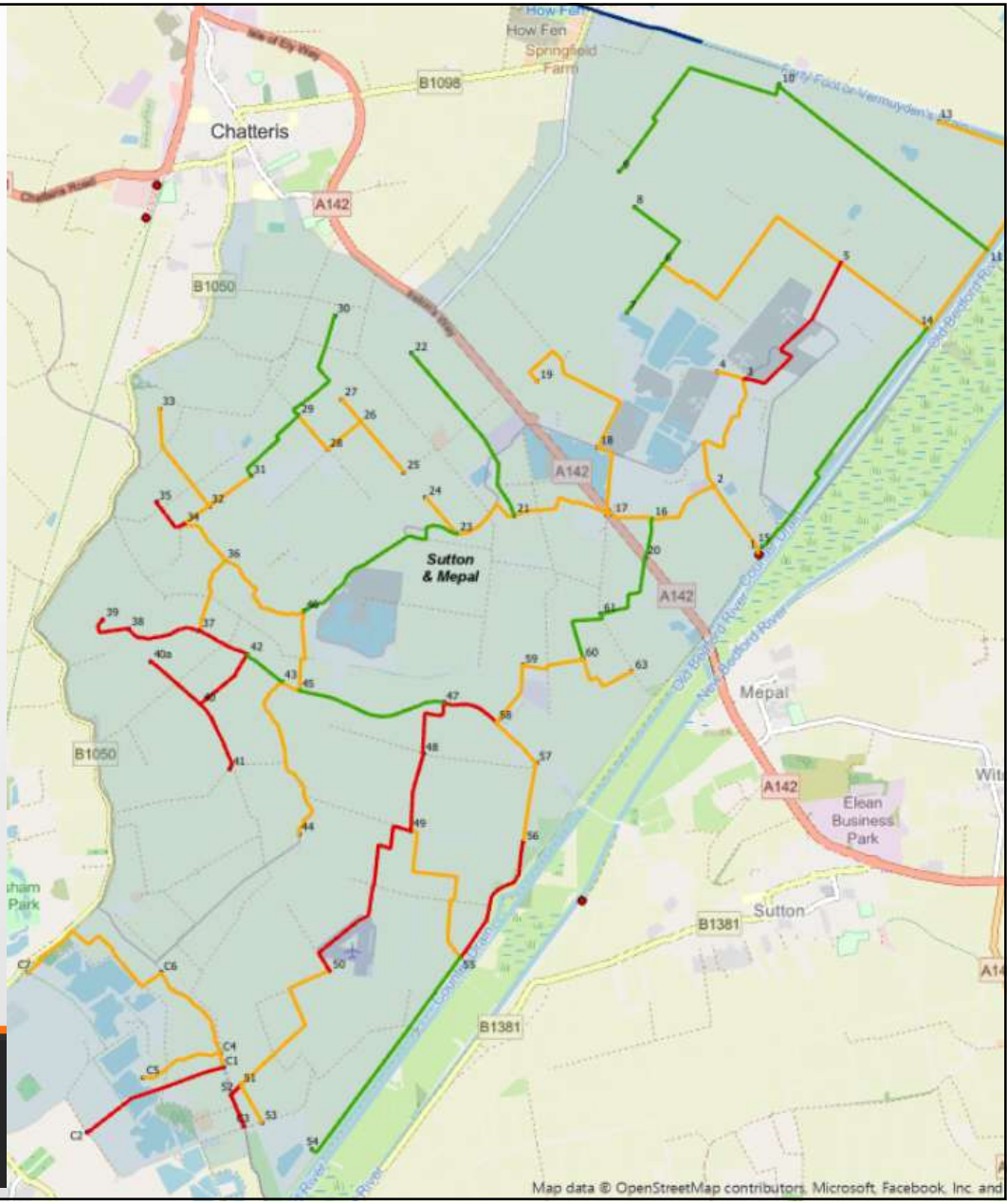
Determine Channel Risk

Categorise Channels by risk/importance

IDB channel categorisation by drainage value/seasonal flood risk	
Channel Categorisation	**Justification:**
High Risk **(Category A)**	Key to managing water levels across a wide local area in all seasons. Strong established need to maximise capacity and conveyance at all times. High level carriers and IDB main drains in more developed catchments with high residential, commercial and/or infrastructure risk. Complex interconnectivity with other channels. Normally at least annual bank and marginal vegetation cuts to allow for safety inspections & regular in-channel weed control.
Moderate Risk **(Category B)**	Important for managing seasonally high flows in less developed areas. Maintenance of in-stream, bank and marginal vegetation on a regular/rolling needs-basis to maintain required capacity and conveyance, and to allow for regular (but not necessarily annual) inspections to ensure good condition.
Low Risk **(Category C)**	Important for alleviation of seasonal waterlogging or agricultural drought in rural, less-developed areas, and to contribute to overall system capacity when needed. Vegetation managed occasionally if needed i.e. where it significantly impedes flow and capacity and for biodiversity value.

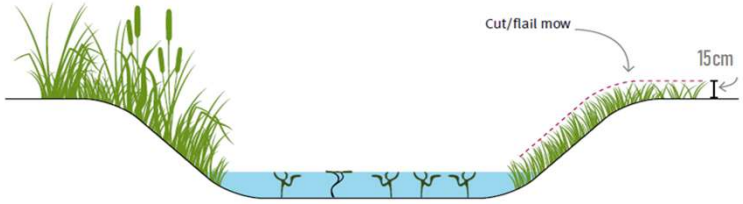
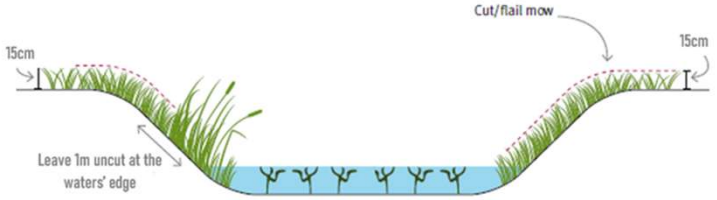
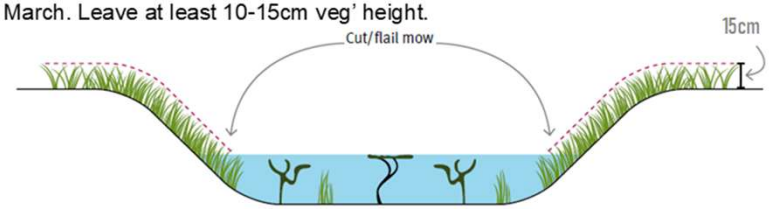
Map Channel Risk Categorisation

Use the system map



Management Approaches

Choose a management approach suitable to that risk category

FMc	Between mid-August – 1st March, cut one bank down to the waters' edge leaving at least 10-15cm veg' height. Leave other bank uncut. Alternate uncut bank each year. 	Channels which are moderately important for conveyance with a low to moderate established flood risk. Channels where desilting will follow shortly after flail mowing.	✓ Retains valuable marginal habitat on one side of the channel for refuge and foraging for a range of species. ✗ Limited winter refuge & vegetation diversity on opposite bank
FMd	Between mid-August – 1st March, cut one bank down to waters' edge leaving at least 10-15cm veg' height and cut the opposite bank down to 1m from the water's edge, leaving at least 15cm veg' height on the bank. Alternate the fully cut side each year. 	Channels which are important for conveyance with a moderate established flood risk.	✓ Retains valuable marginal habitat on one side of the channel for refuge and foraging for a range of species. ✗ Limited winter refuge & less vegetation diversity on opposite bank
FMe	Cut both banks down to waters' edge each year between mid-August – 1st March. Leave at least 10-15cm veg' height. 	Channels which are critical for conveyance and/or highest risk channels with established high flood risk, affecting more developed areas, in the wetter months. An alternative plan to reduce flood risk should be in development.	✓ Retains habitat during the bird nesting season ✗ No winter refuge for a wide range of species and less vegetation diversity

Record Reasoning for Evidence

SOP5 – Channel Flood Risk Categorisation & Works Plan

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Year_____ **IDB**_____ **Operation**_____

Channel Point Ref	Category:	Reasoning:	Approach:	YR1	YR2	YR3	Notes & records:
Example (Flail mowing)							
1-7	High	Flashy from housing estate run-off at all times of year. Has been bank-full in winter events and some high rainfall events in summer. Need to get water through quickly so it doesn't back up and flood parking area.	FMe	Both	Both	Both	Cut before 15th Sept for harvest fete.
8-14	Medium	Never overtopped but key to conveyance in winter through district. Wouldn't want to change anything that may slow things as upstream can get bank-full and floods Finch's yard.	FMe	RB	LB	RB	WV definitely present. Follow species compliance standards carefully.
25-37	Low	Pump drain so wide. Plenty of capacity and links to adjacent nature reserve. Keep costs down and cut alternate sides	FMc	LB	RB	LB	Just cut edges of bramble scrub at end of Jacksons field to keep it same size.

Management Map

Update the system map